

No.	Division.	1895-96.					1896-97.				
		CLASSIFICATION.					CLASSIFICATION.				
		Total.	Fires.	Timber.	Grazing.	Other offences.	Total.	Fire.	Timber.	Grazing.	Other offences.
1	East Khândesh ...	589	4	41	455	89	291	27	89	132	43
2	West Khândesh ...	122	...	6	70	46	291	...	7	265	19
3	Násik ...	725	33	28	650	14	861	5	180	643	33
4	Ahmednagar ...	2,664	1	32	2,630	1	2,420	...	39	2,381	...
5	Poona ...	2,330	10	131	2,188	1	844	...	83	743	18
6	Sátára ...	2,049	23	108	1,791	127	1,463	12	183	1,194	74
7	Sholapur ...	1,382	...	...	1,382	...	918	...	53	863	2
	Total ...	9,861	71	346	9,166	278	7,088	44	634	6,221	189

59. Offences under "Timber" have nearly doubled, while those under "other classes" and especially under "grazing" show a considerable falling off, owing to the fact that extensive portions of the closed forests were thrown open to free grazing in consequence of the prevailing scarcity of fodder supply.

60. An account of the total number of Police cases of the two years is given in the table below :—

No.	Division.	Prosecuted.		Compounded.		Warned.		Undetected.		Total.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khândesh ...	155	69	217	291	589	291	98	51	1,059	702
2	West Khândesh ...	76	112	261	380	122	291	147	90	606	873
3	Násik ...	157	107	263	226	725	861	179	110	1,324	1,304
4	Ahmednagar ...	405	422	54	84	2,564	2,420	107	213	3,230	3,139
5	Poona ...	458	487	542	385	2,330	844	613	1,586	3,943	3,302
6	Sátára ...	421	251	103	668	2,049	1,463	280	243	2,853	2,625
7	Sholapur ...	127	50	616	57	1,382	918	12	19	2,137	1,044
	Total ...	1,799	1,498	2,056	2,091	9,861	7,088	1,430	2,312	15,152	12,989

61. For the reasons explained in the foregoing paragraph the total number of police cases during the year has diminished by 2,163, and proportionate decrease is visible in the number of "prosecutions" and in the number of "warned cases". The percentage of prosecutions in respect of the detected cases is 14·03 against 11·8 of the preceding year.

62. These results show that forest crime is not so common or generally prevalent in the Central Circle as might be expected seeing that the table above represents an account of 12 months, and that it concerns 4,065,496 acres of reserved forests.

(2).—*Protection from Fire.*

63. The statement subjoined gives a comparison between the results of fire conservancy of the two years :—

No.	Division.	Forest area placed under protection against fire in acres.		Failures.		Percentage burnt.		Expenditure, incurred in Rupees.	
		1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
1	East Khândesh ...	512,104	521,887	45,999	62,495	8·5	11·9	144	57
2	West Khândesh ...	1,111,451	1,115,999	211,721	110,780	12·5	9·9	568	1,704
3	Násik ...	818,805	818,823	18,279	4,383	2·2	0·5	198	532
4	Ahmednagar ...	512,997	542,847	3,172	28	0·5	0·005	17	—2
5	Poona ...	455,444	456,096	21,166	771	4·6	0·16	6	367
6	Sátára ...	446,691	446,920	1,653	557	0·3	0·12	40	82
7	Sholapur ...	177,752	177,863	853	4	0·4	0·002	1	...
8	Famine, Grass and Grazing.	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...	1,425
	Total ...	4,072,244	4,080,435	302,843	179,018	7·4	4·3	974	4,165

64. The area placed under protection against fire corresponds with that of the preceding year, but the area traversed by fire during the year and the percentage of failures are, excepting those of East Khándesh, very much below those of 1895-96. The figures of West Khándesh are not very trustworthy, as it is said that a considerably large proportion of the forests was burnt than these figures represent.

65. The expenditure on fire conservancy during the year is more than 4 times greater than that of the past year, and this is due to special fire watchers having been entertained to protect edible grass for local supply and for transport to the famine-affected districts in the Deccan and Southern Mahrátta Country.

66. Two hundred and eighty-three fires occurred during the year. Of 148 of these the origin was discovered, but in respect of 135 fires it could not be ascertained how and by whom the fire had been caused. Prosecutions in regard of 68 fires, including 12 of the previous year, were instituted with the result shown in the following statement:—

Division.	DETAILS OF PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.						REMARKS.
	Serial Number of fire.	Areas burnt in acres.	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
EastKhándesh	14	300	Carelessness in smoking.	Convicted	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 3 and compensation Rs. 7.	
	19	8,686	Do.	Do.	Do.	3 days' imprisonment and compensation Rs. 10.	
	21	15	Do.	Do.	Do.	Fine Rs. 15 and compensation Rs. 20.	
	29	1,000	Do.	Do.	Do.	1 day's imprisonment and fine Rs. 25. Compensation Rs. 80.	
	16	2,000	Do.	Do.	Do.	Imprisonment for one month, Ditto.	
	12	300	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	
	17	5,000	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	
	23	15,000	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	
	26	42	Do.	....	....	Do. 14 month.	
						Do. 8 months.	
						Pending.	
	9	32,343	....	....	....	.....
WestKhándesh	4	500	Careless	Convicted	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 10 and imprisonment for 5 days.	
	50	25	Do.	Do.	Do.	Fine Rs. 5.	
	57	4,216	Intentional	Do.	Do.	Do. " 10.	
	58	1,343	Careless	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	59	9,699	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	60	1,138	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	61	5,000	Intentional	Do.	Do.	Do. " 4.	
	63	1,153	Careless	Do.	Do.	Do. " 4.	
	68	6,475	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. Re. 1.	
	69	1,615	Intentional	Do.	Do.	Do. Rs. 5.	
	72	770	Careless	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	74	2,700	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 4.	
	16	40	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	18	60	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	29	214	Intentional	Do.	Do.	Do. " 5.	
	31	200	Careless	Do.	Do.	Do. " 8.	
	64	80	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 5.	
	41	100	Intentional	Do.	Do.	Do. " 5.	
	71	250	Careless	Do.	Do.	Do. " 2.	
	6	1,000	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do. " 5.	
	27	700	Do.	Do.	Do.	15 days' imprisonment.	
	52	1,300	Do.	One convicted and one acquitted.	Do.	Ditto. and fine Rs. 20.	
	82	100	Do.	Do.	Do.	1 month and fine Rs. 20.	
	33	15	Do.	Acquitted	....	.....
	45	500	Do.	Convicted	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 10.	
	25	39,143	....	....	....	.....
Násik	1	220	Carelessness	Acquitted	....	.....
	7	90	Do.	....	....	.....
	8	10	Do.	....	....	.....
	1	25	Do.	....	....	.....
	9	125	Do.	Convicted	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Imprisonment for 15 days and damage Rs. 10.	Pending, Do. Do.
	10	11	Do.	....	....	.....
	11	15	Do.	Convicted	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	12 weeks' imprisonment and damages annas 8.	Do.
	8	200	Do.	Do.	Do.	Fine Rs. 15 and damages Rs. 20.	
	8	696	....	....	....	.....
Ahmednagar..	1	1	Carelessness	Convicted	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Re. 1.	
	1	1/40	Do.	Acquitted	....	.....
	1	2	Do.	Do.	....	.....
	2	3 1/40	....	....	....	.....

Division.	DETAILS OF PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.						REMARKS.
	Serial Number of fire.	Areas burnt in acres.	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
Poona ..	256/28	25	Carelessness ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 10 and damages Re. 1..	Pertaining to 1895-96. Do. Do.
	258/30	26	Do. ..	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	.....
	357/38	4	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 41 and damages Rs. 6..	
	24/6	10	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 2 and damages Rs. 1-2-0.	Do. Do.
	282/73	1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Re. 1 ..	
	14/1	40	Intentional..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Imprisonment for 7 days	
	29/9	7	Carelessness ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Re. 1 and damages As. 8.	Do. Do.
	52/15	4	Do. ..	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	.....
	19/1	Sq. ft. 9	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 20.	
	48/4	1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Re. 1 and damages As. 4.	Do. Do.
	49/6	24	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Fine Rs. 8 and damages As. 12.	
	11	153	...	...	...	.....
Sátára ..	11	81	Carelessness ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 15..	Pertaining to 1895-96. Do. Do.
	10	9/40	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. , 5 ...	
	16	8	Intentional..	Acquitted ..	Do. ..	.....
	21	25	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 30 ..	Do.
	24	18	Carelessness ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. As. 12 ..	Do.
	25	6	Do. ..	Acquitted ..	Do.	Do. Do.
	26	0	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 3.	
	23	1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. Re. 1.	
	11	11/40	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. Rs. 2 ..	Do.
	9	1/2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. , 6 ..	Do.
	36	3	Do. ..	Acquitted ..	Do.	Do. Do.
	8	10	Do. ..	Convicted ..	Indian Forest Act 25 (b).	Fine Rs. 2 ..	
	12	162	...	...	...	.....

67. Statement below gives complete statistics of the fires that took place during the year as required by Government Resolution No. 5148, dated 9th July 1897, in the Revenue Department :—

Division.	A.—FIRES CAUSED BY ACCIDENT OR THROUGH CARELESSNESS IN BURNING FIRE-LINES.		B.—FIRES ENTER- ING THE FORESTS BY CROSSING EXTERIOR FIRE-TRACES.		C.—Fires beginning inside the reserve or fire-traced area.									
					Owing to carelessness or accident.								By lightning or by fire balloons.	
					By workmen employed in the Forests by purchasers of forest produce or by yahu-cutters.				By villagers, travellers, &c., passing through the Forest.		By railway engines.			
					Number fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number Fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.		
East Khándesh...	1	700	5	20,659	9	31,319	1	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
West Khándesh	3	108	3	3,215	...	...	20	27,998	...	...	...	...	...	...
Násik ...	...	...	...	...	8	696	10	58	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ahmednagar	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	9	3	18	...	...	...	...
Poona ...	...	...	11	74	1	Sq. ft. 9	12	74	2	4	...	...	...	...
Sátára ...	7	147	1	3	1	14	31	316	...	...	...	1	...	8
Sholápur...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	11	955	20	23,951	20	32,030	78	29,455	5	22	1	...	...	8

Division.	C.—Fires beginning inside the reserve or fire-traced area.											
	By intentional firing.								Causes unknown.			
	In order to obtain new grass.		In order to turn out game or to reduce cover.		Maliciously fired.		Total.					
	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.	Number of fires.	Area burnt in acres.
East Khándesh ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	8,817	29	62,495
West Khándesh	...	...	5	11,145	...	...	5	11,145	47	68,314	78	110,780
Násik ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44	3,629	62	4,383
Ahmednagar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	28
Poona ...	...	...	1	3	2	5	3	8	27	611	56	771
Sátára ...	2	50	1	4	2	7	5	61	1	8	47	557
Sholápur...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	4
Total ...	2	50	7	11,152	4	12	13	11,214	135	81,383	283	179,018